COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF EGYPT

BY

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An Introduction to the

Commemorative Stamps of Egypt

OF all stamp issuing countries, Egypt has been most generous in providing philatelists with new designs at comparatively regular intervals. Since 1925, when the first such emission made its appearance, almost every international congress or convention held in that land has been postally honored.

Mr. Kehr

An unfortunate situation, which occurred in 1938 and about which collectors read scathing reports in the philatelic press, threatened the popularity of these colorful sets, but because the government had committed the fault without realizing its consequences in stampdom and because the Egyptian postal authorities immediately apologized and promised never more to make the same mistake, hobbyists all over the world were unanimous in restoring Egyptian commemoratives to the class of legitimate issues.

Considering the record of Egyptian commemoratives as a whole their philatelic status cannot be assailed, if we check the interest in them by both the government and the collectors who buy them with such enthusiasm.

In the first place, all except two sets were issued at a face value which any average collector could afford. Eighteen of them were sold at 30 cents or less per set; one had a face value of about $9, two cost about $2.50, and one about $1.75.

In the second place, every one of these adhesives is well designed, perfectly produced in attractive colors and adorned with a portrait or scene that reflects a wealth of historical information. A combination like that goes far in creating philatelic interest and popularity. Furthermore, such adhesives do much to stimulate non-collectors to take up the hobby and from that aspect alone, Egyptian commemoratives deserve the praise of every serious collector.

In the third place, when we look at it from the government's point of view, such issues are valuable in promoting an interest not only in the stamps themselves, but also in fostering interest in the land by which they are issued. They become media of advertising to show the world how well Egypt is suited and situated as a convention center.

Some philatelic writers who were apparently unfamiliar with the postal customs of the country attacked Egypt when some American and English dealers were unable to get adequate supplies of recent congress sets. Perhaps a word of explanation would be appropriate at this point.

Since the Geographical issue was prepared in 1925 dealers were able to send advance orders to Cairo and obtain as many sets as they desired for their clients at face value plus the cost of postage and registration in much the same manner as they procured stamps from other foreign countries. Later a philatelic agency was established at Cairo just as similar service bureaus were opened in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and lands all over the globe.

The operation of this philatelic agency was profitable for the government for through it thousands of unused sets were sent to all six continents; sets which were sold at a face value of approximately 30 cents and for which no postal service had to be rendered. But this system, the post office learned, was neither practical, nor just, nor popular. Because they could send advance orders to Egypt dealers and collectors invariably subscribed to nearly the entire issue of most of the commemoratives. It means that while a certain series was prepared in honor of a congress being held in Egypt very few Egyptians ever saw the stamps themselves. It also made it impossible for Egyptian dealers—and there are plenty of stamp dealers in that land of the Pharoahs—to do business, at a legitimate profit, with overseas collectors and dealers. Egyptian public protest, especially that voiced by the dealers, was so loud that the Post Office Department was forced to close its philatelic agency and refuse all future mail orders for commemorative stamps.

Appreciating the justice of such an action, foreign dealers agreed to purchase their stocks at a regular percentage above face value from Egyptian merchants who were willing to act as their agents.

The situation was partially improved but not remedied. The same number of orders were placed with the post office for stamps destined for foreign lands so that while Egyptian dealers were actually buying them, the local public still saw very little of subsequent new stamps. Under the circumstances only one thing could be done, and the government did it. A rule was passed that on the first day of sale no more than two copies of any stamp would be sold to a single person so that every one who wanted a copy could get it if he cared to take the trouble of visiting the post office in his neighborhood and buy it.

This proceedure, because it caused several riots and endless confusion, delay and inconvenience, was condemned by the lay and philatelic press.

The government was accused of issuing commemoratives too often: of racketeering at the expense of hobbyists; the Egyptian dealers who were fortunate enough to get a supply of them were charged with having received them through political manipulation.

At the behest of the Egyptian Stamp Club in Cairo, which is one of the most active philatelic organizations in the world, protecting the interests of stampdom wherever such policing is necessary, the Egyptian government agreed to curtail the emission of any more commemorative stamps except when such a set would be absolutely necessary. The situation was saved, a scandal was avoided and the integrity of the postal administration preserved. The stamps which were perilously near philatelic ex-communication regained their honor and a consideration of them from both a philatelic and educational aspect may now be undertaken.

The First Commemorative Issue

1922

THE first Egyptian commemoratives comprised a provisional set of thirteen values issued on Oct. 10, 1922, to honor the appointment of Fouad I as monarch of the land. The current set of pictorials, printed in London by Harrison and Sons and including all denominations from 1 millieme to 100 milliemes, was overprinted in Cairo with a crown and an Arabic inscription: **"Al Mamlaka Al Masriya (The Kingdom of Egypt), 15 Mars 1922."**

As indicated by the date of the overprint, the independence of Egypt was declared in March but as a Mohammedan confirmation of King Fouad's appointment was required the issuance of the commemorative set was withheld until October when he was invested by the patriarch of that religion. In addition to the Harrison set, some of the previous de la Rue 100 and 200-millieme stamps were still in stock and they, too, received the overprint.

Additional printings were later made in Cairo by typography, a cheaper method than the original lithography. Still other stamps, which had been prepared by Harrison and Sons before this event occurred, were overprinted in London by typography so that they could be sold immediately upon arrival in Egypt without delay which would have been caused if they had to be sent to the Cairo printing plant for the overprinting.

Scott's catalogue recognizes only one type of overprint but specialists in Egyptian stamps and some of the foreign price lists make a distinction between the four types, which may be distinguished as follows:

Type I. Lithographed in Cairo: The crown and all Arabic characters are clear and distinct. The "alif" or first Arabic character from the right is long and slender but extends down only as far as the hook of the "lam" or second character.

Type II. Typographed in Cairo: The crown, which measures 6.40 mm. across its widest section, is blurry, while the Arabic characters are heavier than the lithographs. Issued in December, 1922.

Type III. Typographed in Cairo: Known as the "Large Crown Type" because the crown is larger than any of the others, measuring 6.75mm. The first "alif" is short and stubby. Issued in April, 1923.

Type IV. Typographed in London: A clear impression which resembles the Cairo Lithograph type. The "alif" is thin but extends below the hook of the "lam." The Arabic five, which looks like a cipher, in the second line is almost round whereas in the lithographs it is oval. Issued in July, 1923.

It is worth noting that the overprint applied to all stamps of this series is the same size. The difference between the small stamps (1 to 15 milliemes) and the larger ones (20 to 200 milliemes) lies only in the setting, which was more widely spaced so that the overprint would be placed in the center of each stamp.

A check list of known varieties follows:

TYPE I.

1 mil. brown.
1 mil. brown, inverted overprint. One sheet known.
2 mils. red.
2 mils. red, inverted watermark.
3 mils. orange.
4 mils. green.
5 mils. pale rose.
5 mils. pale rose, overprint misplaced at bottom.
10 mils. carmine.
15 mils. blue (A34).
15 mils. blue (A35).
20 mils. olive.
20 mils. olive, inverted overprint. Five unused copies known.
20 mils. olive, double overprint. Five unused copies known.
50 mils. maroon.
50 mils. maroon, inverted overprint. Twelve unused copies known.
100 mils. black.
100 mils. black, inverted overprint. Five unused copies known.
100 mils. black, double overprint. One-hundred copies known.
100 mils. black, watermarked single crescent and star.
200 mils. plum, watermarked single crescent and star.
200 mils. plum, inverted overprint. Three used copies known, postmarked "Mansura—October 8, 1924."

TYPE II.

1 mil. brown.
1 mil. brown, inverted overprint. Thirty-four unused copies known and two used at Cairo.
2 mils. red.
3 mils. orange.
4 mils. green.
5 mils. pale rose.
10 mils. carmine.
15 mils. blue (A35).

TYPE III.

1 mil. brown.
1 mil. brown, double overprint. Thirty unused copies known.
2 mils. red.
2 mils. red, overprint misplaced at bottom.
3 mils. orange.
4 mils. green.
5 mils. pale rose.
10 mils. carmine.
15 mils. blue (A34).
15 mils. blue (A35).
15 mils. blue (A35) overprint misplaced at bottom.

TYPE IV.

1 mil. brown.
1 mil. brown, trial overprint in red.
5 mils. pale rose.
10 mils. carmine.
15 mils. blue (A34).
15 mils. blue (A34) trial overprint in red.
20 mils. olive.
50 mils. maroon.
50 mils. maroon, inverted overprint. Fifteen copies known, all used.

In releasing the quantities of stamps overprinted in Cairo, the Post Office makes no accounting for the three different types, but gives only total printings for each value.

1 mil.—3,000,000.
2 mils.—2,400,000.
3 mils.—2,400,000.
4 mils.—2,400,000.
5 mils.—6,000,000.
10 mils.—1,000,000.
15 mils. (A34)—149,600,000.
15 mils. (A35)—150,000,000.
20 mils.—300,000.
50 mils.—250,000.
100 mils.—100,000 (Triple watermark)
100 mils.—2,000 (Single watermark).
200 mils.—23,000 (Single watermark).

TYPE IV.

1 mil.—500,000.
5 mils.—6,880,000.
10 mils.—1,000,000.
15 mils.—1,660,400.
50 mils.—500,000.

In addition to the regular stamps of this series, the then current postage dues were also overprinted to mark the Independence of Egypt and the appointment of King Fouad.

Since the postage dues are the same size as the small stamps of the regular series, the same setting for the overprints was used except that it was applied sideways, giving the finished commemorative the appearance of having an inverted overprint. Some sheets of the two piastre denomination were placed in the press the wrong way so that the overprint appears both "normal"

and "inverted," the former being quite scarce.

2 mils. vermillion; 4 mils. green; 10 mils carmine—quantities unknown.
2 pias. orange (26,000 copies printed).
2 pias. orange (normal overprint) (8,000 copies).

GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS 1925

TO commemorate the International Geographic Congress, held in Cairo from the first to the thirtieth of April, 1925, The Post Office Department of Egypt authorized the issuance of three special stamps, all bearing the same design.

The vignette depicts the god of ancient Egyptian mythology, Thoth, who was recognized by the Greeks as Hermes. To him were attributed the domination over human speech, letters, music and astronomy. He was regarded as having invented the arts and sciences, and with the god Khons, directed the course of the moon. He is pictured as a man with the head of an Ibis.

Because of his mythological importance at the coronation ceremonies of ancient Pharoahs, he is shown on the stamp in the act of inscribing the name of King Fouad in hieroglyph characters together with the symbols for health and longevity. The rituals in which Thoth most generally participated were the purification of an incumbent ruler and the annointing of statues before the king might enter the temples. He was also worshipped as the "recording deity" who kept track of human acts.

In mural paintings he is represented as the judge to decide whether a departed soul may enjoy eternity or must first be purified by re-incarnation in the form of a pig or similar animal.

The stamps were lithographed by the Survey Department in Cairo and comprised two separate printings which may be distinguished as follows:

1. The colors of the second printing are brighter than those of the first.

2. The gum of the first printing is even and white.

3. The gum of the second printing is streaked diagonally and slightly yellowish.

The check list follows:

5 mils. brown
5 mils. bright brown
10 mils. rose
10 mils. bright rose
15 mils. blue
15 mils. bright blue
15 mils. blue, printed on both sides.

Quantities sold, according to the P. O. are:

5 mils. 114,870.
10 mils. 86,205.
15 mils. 85,995.

Neither essays nor proofs of this issue exist unless some were specially prepared for His Majesty, King Fouad, who was a serious philatelist. However, the writer has in his collection a small piece of banknote paper upon which are sketched six designs closely resembling the 15 millieme denomination with ink in blue and black and in the exact size of the issued stamps. It seems to have been a part of a larger sheet that may have been used as a lay-out sketch to determine the number of stamps to be printed in a full sheet. Though there is nothing to show that this specimen actually came from the Survey Department its source leads the writer to suspect that it is authentic.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION 1926

WHEN the Twelfth Agricultural and Industrial Exposition was held in Cairo, the Post Office Department prepared a set of six stamps which was placed on sale between March 1 and April 30 of 1926. The issue was lithographed by the Survey Department and depicts

a fellahin or native farmer plowing his field with a yoke of oxen.

The vignette is an honest symbol of Egypt for agriculture is the leading industry, producing huge crops of sugar, barley, dhura (maize), wheat, flax, and cotton for an international market. The plow, such as the one illustrated on these stamps, is typical of the country as it has not been noticeably improved since its invention by the ancient civilizations of the Nile delta.

The check list:

5	mils.	brown
10	mils.	rose
15	mils.	blue
50	mils.	green-blue
50	mils.	green-blue, inverted watermark
100	mils.	lilac
100	mils.	lilac, inverted watermark
200	mils.	violet.

Quantities issued, according to the P. O. are:

5	mils.	202,500
10	mils.	202,500
15	mils.	202,500
50	mils.	52,500
100	mils.	35,000
200	mils.	35,000

FOUAD'S BIRTHDAY 1926

THE birthday of His Majesty, King Fouad, provided an excuse for the sale of a single commemorative stamp on the second of April in 1926. The design was photo-engraved by the Survey Department and showed the Egyptian monarch in a three-quarters length portrait which gives him the appearance of having been a tall, stalwart soldier, whereas in actual life he was shorter than the average man of his country.

Though this was but a single design and denomination, several minor varieties exist to make it an interesting issue for the specialist. Both thick and thin paper were used but most unusual is the fact that two sizes of perforating needles were employed to produce compound perforations on some stamps.

In perforating the sheets of twenty-five stamps, the top and bottom rows of five stamps each are perforated 15 vertically. The second row from the top is perforated 15 about one quarter of the way down and perforated 14 the rest of the way. The third (middle) row is perforated 14 about three quarters of the way down and perforated 15 the rest of the way. The horizontal perforations all gauge 14. In each sheet, therefore, there are ten stamps perforated 14 x 15; five perforated 14 x 14; five perforated 14 x 15 & 14 and five perforated 14 x 14 & 15. In the compound perforations a tiny gap is evident between the different size holes. 56,750 copies were issued.

The complete check list follows:

THIN PAPER

50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 14.
50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 14 & 15.
50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 15 & 14.

THICK PAPER

50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 14.
50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 14 & 15.
50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 15 & 14.
50 pi. lilac, perf. 14 x 15 without perforations at the top.

AGRICULTURE SURCHARGE 1926

A LARGE quantity of the high denominations of the Agricultural set that remained on hand after the stamps were withdrawn from sale were returned to the Survey Department where a provisional surcharge was applied changing the values from 50 milliemes to 5 milliemes, 100 milliemes to 10 milliemes and from 200 milliemes to 15 milliemes. These were then distributed to the Post Office Department and sold, after Aug. 24, 1926, as regular stamps.

The check list.

5/50 mils. geen-blue.
5/50 mils. green-blue, inverted watermark.
5/50 mils. green-blue, 5 of surcharge broken.
10/100 mils. lilac.
10/100 mils. lilac, inverted watermark.
15/200 mils. violet.
15/200 mils. violet, double surcharge.

Official figures for this set are:

5/50 mils. 150,000.
10/100 mils. 167,000.
15/200 mils. 167,500.

NAVIGATION CONGRESS 1926

A SET of three special stamps was issued by the Post Office Department of Egypt in commemoration of the International Navigation Congress held in Cairo during December, 1926. Sale of the stamps was initiated on Dec. 9. They were valid for use until March 18, 1927.

Printed by lithography at the Survey Department of Cairo, the vignette depicts an ancient Egyptian galley* such as was used around 1600 B. C. to expel the Asiatic invaders. The design was taken from a mural painting in a temple at Deir-el-Bahari. The small cartouche in the upper left hand corner spells the name of King Fouad in heiro-

glyph characters and is identical to that illustrated on the Geographical set of the previous year. Originally the stamps were printed in sheets of 100 stamps each but were distributed to the post offices in panes of fifty stamps each.

5 mils. brown & black (299,500 copies)
10 mils. red & black (199,500 copies)
15 mils. blue & black (199,500 copies)

*This particular galley is said to have been owned by Queen Hatshepsut.

PORT FOUAD — 1926

OF ALL commemorative postage stamps issued anywhere in the world, the Port Fouad provisional set is undoubtedly the most famous for it is not only a valuable philatelic series, but also one that has received wide publicity through the press and motion pictures.

On Dec. 21, 1926 the new, modern city of Port Fouad was dedicated by

His Majesty, the king, whose name it bears and which is located just opposite Port Said. The opening of the post office (held in conjunction with the dedication of the city) was a grand affair. The ferry boats of the Compagnie Canal de Suez car-

ried passengers to the new place free of charge so that as many citizens as possible would be on hand when their king appeared for the ceremonies.

The preparation of the special stamps had been reported long in advance and practically every Egyptian who could, determined to buy as many of them as he was able. The riot that ensued is philatelic history. The post office was nearly wrecked, dozens of visitors

were injured and three of them actually killed in the rush.

It was an interesting sight to behold a seething mass of squabbling Arabs more interested in procuring those commemorative stamps than in hearing the address of King Fouad and the other dignitaries.

Many had slept in front of the post office all night to be first in line the next morning and those who were fortunate enough to get a set found a ready market for them at fabulous profit. The set of three stamps which had a face value of less than 3 piastres was being immediately turned over for 100. The high value was sold for as much as 30 guineas before the day ended.

According to postal announcements, 2,500 sets of the Navigation Congress stamps had been overprinted while only 1,500 of the 50 piastres Birthday Stamp received the PORT FOUAD. Most of these, however, were mounted in souvenir folders and distributed to visiting dignitaries and only a small number of them actually placed on sale.

Because the stamps are extremely scarce and at the same time have a comparatively simple overprint, they have been widely counterfeited so any collector purchasing them is admonished to have them expertized first.

A check list of these commemoratives whose overprint was applied at the Government Printing Plant at Boulaq, follows:

5 mils. brown and black.
10 mils. red and black.
15 mils. blue and black.
15 mils. blue and black, Double obliterating block over "Cairo" at bottom
50 pias. violet, perf. 14 x 14.
50 pias. violet, perf. 14 x 14 & 15*
50 pias. violet, perf. 14 x 15 & 14*

(*For an explanation of these compound perforations refer to the description of the 50 pias Birthday stamp of 1926, on page 7).

COTTON CONGRESS 1927

COTTON had become one of Egypt's most important agricultural products and the land under cultivation increased each year, nevertheless the cotton's quality

deteriorated and so in 1927 an International Congress was held in Cairo to which leading cotton experts were invited. The government hoped to determine the reason for this deterioration and thereby improve future crops. To honor the event a set of three stamps was lithographed by the Survey Department and placed on sale from Jan. 25 until April 24, 1927.

The vignette is beautiful in its simplicity for it shows only a branch of cotton in full bloom.

5 mils. brown and green (302,000 copies)
10 mils. red and green (202,000 copies)
15 mils. blue and green (202,000 copies)

STATISTICAL CONGRESS 1927

A SET of three stamps was authorized for sale in conjunction with the Statistical Congress, held in Cairo in December of 1927. According to the decree, the stamps

were to be placed on sale Dec. 29 and remain good for postage until March 16, 1928, after which they would be demonetized.

The central vignette of these stamps, which were photo-engraved at the Survey Department, depicts Amenhotep who is credited with having taken the first census in Egypt. This famous Egyptian, whose statue also appears on the ten milliemes stamp of 1914-23, was called Memnon by the Greeks. In the Homeric writings Memnon came to the Battle of Troy with 10,000 troops to aid his uncle, Priam, where he killed Antilochus, the son of Nestor. Amenhotep reigned over Lower and Upper Egypt around 1400 B. C., was a great builder and responsible for numerous statues at Thebes and Luxor. He waged war against the Ethiopians and later ruled all lands between Nepata and the Euphrates River.

The only standard minor variety comes in the 10 milliemes stamp and consists of a round circular dot of color between "Caire" and "1927" in the bottom panel.

5 mils. red-brown (302,000 copies)
10 mils. red (202,000 copies)
10 mils. red, dot between Caire and 1927.
15 mils. bright blue. (202,000 copies)

MEDICAL CONGRESS 1929

THE International Medical Convention of 1929 was held in Cairo and to honor the event, a set of two stamps was issued by the Post Office Department. Photo-engraved at the Survey Department, the adhesives portray Im-Hotep and Mohammed Ali. They were first sold on Dec. 15, 1929 and remained on sale until March 16, 1930. 402,000 copies of each were sold, according to an official anouncement.

Im-Hotep, who appears on the 5 milliemes design, was one of the truly great men of Egypt and generally referred to as "He who comes in the name of peace." His only companion in the light of achievement was Leonardo da Vinci for he seems to have excelled in almost every field of endeavor which he attempted. He was chief counsellor to the Pharoah Zoser whose reign is recorded for 2900 B. C. He was, among other accomplishments, Royal Architect, Chief Ritualist of the Temple, Sage and Scribe, Astronomer and Physician. His fame in the latter capacity was recalled and revered even as late as the Fifth Century, A. D. Twenty-five hundred years after his death he was deified as the "god of medicine."

He is portrayed in the stamp's design as holding the Uas sceptre in his right hand, the symbol of serenity and contentment and in his left, the Ankh, symbol of life.

The other design portrays Mo-

hammed Ali, Pasha of Egypt from 1805 to 1848 and generally considered as the founder of modern Egypt. Although his methods of securing and holding power were often questionable, he did much to encourage agriculture and manufacturing. He founded many institutions, among them the Kasr-el-Aini hospital and the associated college for educating and training natives in the profession of medicine and surgery.

The five milliemes comes in two types, viz:

I. Background is clear and white.

II. Background shows a 'screen' of fine diagonal lines.

5 mils. brown, Type I.
5 mils. brown, Type II.
10 mils. red.

PRINCE FAROUK
1929

TO honor the tenth birthday of Prince Farouk, who was born to King Fouad by his second wife, the Egyptian Post Office Department authorized the emission of a set of four stamps in 1929.

These adhesives, which portray the young Prince, the present King, were lithographed by the Survey Department and first sold on his birthday, Feb. 11, 1929. They remained on sale only until Feb. 17 and 201,000 sets are reported to have been sold within that single week. They were printed in sheets of fifty stamps each.

5 mils. brown and grey.
10 mils. red and grey.
15 mils. blue and grey.
20 mils. green-blue and grey.

Some time after the issue was sold out a supply of these stamps in which the central portrait was printed in brown instead of the black-grey, appeared on the philatelic market. Though they are recognized as legitimate errors by Egyptian philatelists, nothing is known of their origin except that the Survey Department announced that 1,000 copies of each value had been released.

In America the only dealer who had them at the time they appeared was A. C. Roessler of Orange, N. J. He advertised and sold his stock at $4 per set.

AGRICLUTURAL CONGRESS
1931

ON Feb. 15, 1931, another set of three stamps was issued by the Egyptian government, this time in commemoration of the Fourteenth Annual Exposition of Agriculture and Industry. The design, taken from wall decorations on the tombs at Karnak, represents two farmers reaping wheat while a third, in the

foreground was called "the auguste pose of a sower" by Victor Hugo. At the feet of the men are two apparently well-fed birds.

These stamps were produced by photogravure at the Survey Department in sheets of fifty stamps each. A special post office was erected at the exposition where visitors could obtain them and though the fair was finished on March 31, the stamps were available at other post offices until May 15, 1931.

5 mils. brown.
10 mils. red
15 mils. blue.

Though there are no minor varieties of this stamp, the postmark which was specially prepared for use at the exposition does contain a mistake. On comparatively few impressions the word, Caire, is omitted and since specialists eagerly seek this error it has become quite valuable.

RAILWAY CONGRESS 1933

A SET of four special stamps was issued in honor of the International Railway Congress, held in Cairo in January, 1933. Though the stamps were valid for postage until April 18 the entire issue was sold out within three days and not reprinted. This set was lithographed by the Survey Department. Each one depicts a locomotive used in Egypt between 1854 and 1933, making an interesting record of transportation progress.

The 5 milliemes denomination shows Engine Number 1, built by Robert Stephenson in Great Britain in 1852. It was brought to Egypt and then to the Sudan in 1884. Its end is unknown.

The 13 milliemes delineates Engine Number 68, built in England by Messrs. Neilson in 1862. It was re-numbered "23" in 1889 and "23A" in 1894. It was destroyed in 1895.

The 15 milliemes depicts Engine Number 41, built by Robert Stephenson in Great Britain in 1887. It was re-numbered "2" in 1889 and was sold to the Khassa (Director of Crown Colonies) on Feb. 26, 1909.

The 20 milliemes shows Engine Number 787, built by the North British Locomotive Company in 1925. Renumbered "53" in 1926 and is still in service.

5 mils. maroon and black (202,000 copies)
13 mils. red and black (52,000 copies)
15 mils. violet and black (52,000 copies)
20 mils. blue and black (52,000 copies)

Mr. Hagopian, a local dealer, discovered that during the first few

days of the congress the special cancelation had the "1933" of its date inverted. He called the error to the attention of the authorities and it was soon rectified. It is a popular variety with postmark collectors.

POSTAL CONGRESS 1934

THE longest commemorative set ever issued by Egypt made its appearance on Feb. 1, 1934 to commemorate the Tenth Universal Postal Congress held in Cairo that year. Photoengraved by the Survey Department, all values from the one to the 200 milliemes were 25 x 30 millimeters and portray Khedive Ismail Pasha in a full-face bust while the

50 piastres and one pound values are 25 x 42 millimeters and show him in his regal uniform, three quarter length.

It was Khedive Ismail Pasha who reigned at the time of Giaccomo

Muzzi's "Posta Europea," the first real postal system in Egypt, and who later bought Muzzi's concession, establishing the Egyptian Post Office. He was likewise responsible for the construction of the Suez Canal and several other modern improvements that changed 19th Century Egypt from a primitive Oriental land into an up-to-date nation.

These remained on sale until June 30, 1935 and on account of their high face value, were not even sold out by that date. All unsold copies were destroyed in the presence of witnesses.

		Printed	Sold
1 mil.	orange	502,000	501,975
2 mils.	black	502,000	501,975
3 mils.	sepia	502,000	501,975
4 mils.	green	502,000	501,975
5 mils.	brown	802,000	801,976
10 mils.	violet	602,000	601,966
13 mils.	red-rose	502,000	500,057
15 mils.	brown lilac	402,000	401,976
20 mils.	ultramarine	602,000	601,976
50 mils.	blue-green	202,000	201,907
100 mils.	olive	202,000	140,338
200 mils.	violet	202,000	56,234
50 pias.	brown	17,000	10,408
£1	green blue	17,000	7,553

AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRY — 1936

TO commemorate the Fifteenth Exposition of Agriculture and Industry at Cairo, a set of five special stamps was authorized and printed by photogravure at the Survey Department.

Three different scenes within the special exposition grounds were used to illustrate these stamps. The 5 milliemes shows the entrance to the Agricultural Building; the 10 and 13 milliemes depict the front facade of the same structure while

the 15 and 20 milliemes depict the entire Industrial Building.

The stamps were placed on sale on

Feb. 15 and were good for postage until May 15, 1936.

5 mils. brown—502,000 copies.
10 mils. violet—202,000 copies.
13 mils. red—102,000 copies.
15 mils. violet-brown — 202,000 copies.
20 mils. blue—102,000 copies.

A special postmark, advertising the Exposition was used between Jan. 7 and April 30, 1936.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN TREATY 1936

On December 22, 1936, the Egyptian government issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty on Aug. 26, 1936. The central design of these adhesives, which were photo-engraved at the Survey Department, depicts the actual signing, with Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden of England at the head of the table and numerous Egyptian ministers at either side. It was taken from a photograph, an original copy of which is now in the writer's collection.

5 mils. brown (502,000)
15 mils. violet (302,000)
20 mils. blue (242,000)

MONTREAUX TREATY 1937

THE set of three stamps issued to commemorate the Treaty of Montreux on Oct. 15, 1937, represents a link between philately and numismatics since the central vignette depicts a medal which shows a

watercarrier and has the inscription Royaume d'Egypte.

The Montreaux Treaty developed from a convention which was assembled in the Swiss city on April 14, 1937, to consider the abolition of the capitulatory regime in Egypt. By the terms of the treaty all the extra-territorial privileges formerly

enjoyed by foreigners were withdrawn, and in future, cases involving foreigners are to be tried by mixed tribunals, consisting of Egyptian and foreign judges. One of the chief subjects of contention was the definition of the term, foreigners, but eventually a compromise was reached whereby natives of Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Trans-Jordania were made subject to the Egyptian courts, and natives of all the capitulary powers subject to mixed courts. The four official languages which may be used before the mixed courts are English, French, Italian and Arabic.

On July 19 the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies ratified the convention and treaty by a vote of 120 to two

There were 342,000 complete sets sold between Oct. 15, 1937, and Jan. 14, 1938.

5 mils. brown.
15 mils. violet-blue.
20 mils. blue.

OPTHALMOLOGICAL CONGRESS — 1937

ANOTHER set of three stamps was issued to commemorate the Ophthalmological Congress held in Cairo in December, 1937. The stamps, photo-engraved by the Survey Department at Cairo, were issued on Dec. 8, 1937, and remained on sale until Jan. 20, 1938, after

which they were demonetized The central vignette depicts the "Oudjat" or mystic eye of Re. Its design was copied from a pendent found around the neck of King Tuthamkhamen, the original being made of gold and lapis-lazuli. On either side of the stamp's Oudjat is a symbolical figure: on the right is Nekhbet, the vulture goddess and on the left, Oujit, the symbol of united Lower and Upper Egypt. The Oudjat was a talisman universally used by ancients to insure good vision, vigor, security, health and protection against the "evil eye."

A great number of Egyptians suffer from various eye diseases and in order to improve the situation the congress was called and invitations were sent to all leading eye specialists in every part of the world. All cases of blindness, however, were not due to disease for many instances have been recorded where Egyptians made themselves blink by injecting the fluid of a poisonous plant into their eyes, to avoid military service.

In 1902 Sir Ernest Cassel constituted a trust fund of £40,000 to provide treatment for those suffering from real eye diseases. Dr. MacCallen, an English ophthalmological specialist was placed in charge of the work connected with the fund and since then conditions improved.

5 mils. brown 302,000
15 mils. violet-brown 202,000.
20 mils. blue 202,000.

COTTON CONGRESS 1938

The second Cotton Congress stamps were issued on Jan. 26, 1933 in honor of the Eighteenth Annual Cotton Congress

held in Cairo. The set comprised three values, all depicting a fellahin amidst a field of blooming cotton. They were photo-engraved by the Survey Department in sheets of fifty stamps each and were good for postage until March 25, 1938.

5 mils. orange-brown (152,000).

15 mils, brown-violet (102,000).

20 mils. blue (122,000)

ROYAL WEDDING
1938

WHEN King Farouk, who succeeded his father, Fouad, after the latter's death in 1936, married the daughter of a Mohammedan nobleman, a special commemorative stamp was placed on sale Jan. 20, 1938. This handsome adhesive, which portrays Queen Farida and King Farouk, was photo-engraved by the Survey Department. The demand for these was almost as great as for the aforementioned Port Fouad series.

A letter, received by Miss Amy Lewis of the Women's Philatelic Society of New York, gives a vivid description of the occasion so it is printed here, verbatim:

"Victoria Hotel,
Assuan, Egypt.
January 31, 1938.

". . . I hope you all got my letters posted on the Wedding Day. I mailed twelve (not all to the club) but only four or five of them had wedding stamps on them. There were 270,000* stamps printed but only two were sold to a customer, and at the post office there was a riot.

"That seething mass of screeching, squawking Arabs surged back and forth brating against the iron bars of the four little windows in the main post office at Cairo, and every once in a while would emerge from the coagulate a steaming, sweating Arab with a sticky pair of stamps crumpled in his fist. There were bloody noses and torn cheeks and lips and clothes ripped right off their backs. I stood just back of them and watched, hoping vainly, for more than one hour. Just after I got there they put up iron barricades atop the steps and I was comparatively safe backed up against one of them. The clerk in the American Express bought two and gave them both to me. The rest I bought at two or three piastres (15c) for the 2½c stamp, on the street.

"You ask for commemoratives bought at face value. There ain't no such animal, not HERE in Egypt. The Cotton Congress Commemorative issued this last week, were all sold out and purchaseable at double face value now. The wedding stamps now sell at 25c each. Godness knows what they'll soar to."

(signed) Alice Rounds."

*This letter states that 270,000 copies were printed but actual records show that only 202,000 copies were made and sold.

5 mils. orange-brown.

COMMUNICATION CONGRESS
1938

THE International Tele-Communications Congress, which was held in Cairo during February of

1938 provided the occasion for another three-value set of postage stamps. Photo-engraved by the Survey Department in sheets of fifty, these stamps provide an interesting

contrast between the ancient glory of Egypt and the modern land. In the background is a scene showing the pyramids at Ghizeh and the Colossus at Thebes, otherwise known as the Statue of Memnon (referred to in the Statistical Congress notes). A radio antenna and telegraph wires are in the foreground.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Pender had the following to say about the Congress itself:

"The conference took place in Cairo early this year but I regret to inform you that so far as cable and wireless communications were concerned, the proceedings were almost entirely abortive, and no real progress was made in solving any of the main telegraphic problems which were laid before the conference.

"The whole proceedings were overshadowed by political considerations and for all practical purposes the conference was a failure."

—The Financial Times,
London, 5-25-38.

5 mils. brown (152,000)
15 mils. violet-brown (102,000)
20 mils. blue (102,000)

LEPROSY CONGRESS 1938

THE last of the several sets issued in 1938 which caused so much philatelic protest, as mentioned in the introduction, was a series of three stamps prepared to commemorate the International Leprosy Congress which convened in Cairo in March. The stamps were photo-engraved by the Survey Department in sheets of fifty and depict a branch of the Hydnocarpus plant, associated with the treatment of disease.

"There are six species of Hydnocarpus, of which H. Wightianus is the one being most grown now for the oil that is so valuable in the treatment of leprosy. The reason why this species is grown is be-

cause the oils can be obtained from the seeds purer than in any other variety.

"The main constituents of the oil which the seeds contain are the hydnocarpic and chaulmoogric acids that have been used for centuries for wounds, ulcers, ophthalmia and latterly most extensively for leprosy.

"This genus belongs to the Bixacae group of trees. They are fine evergreen trees with handsome dark green foliage common in the rain forests of South India and Siam. This variety is now being grown commercially for the oil and successfully introduced into Nigeria and other countries with suitable climatic conditions.

"The mature fruits are about the size and shape of an orange, containing fifteen to twenty seeds with a hard, brittle seed coat and twenty to twenty-five go to the ounce. The well known Chaulmoogra oil was obtained from the seeds of Taratogenous Kurzii."*

*By F. S. Sillitoe, M. B. E.
5 mils. orange-brown (202,000)
15 mils. violet-brown (152,000)
20 mils. blue (152,000)

KING'S BIRTHDAY 1938

THE Scott Catalogue does not list the special stamp issued by Egypt on Feb. 11, 1938, in commemoration of the birthday of King Farouk and as confusing reports reached this country through the philatelic press, American collectors are not aware of the situation surrounding the issue.

Shortly before the eighteenth birthday of the monarch the Department of Posts and Telegraphs authorized the issue of 5,000 copies of a stamp whose design was almost identical to the Wedding issue, but it called for only 3,000 copies. This very limited edition brought forth many protests from philatelic circles, particularly the Egyptian Stamp Club, and consequently an additional printing was made bringing the total number up to 10,000 copies.

Because the stamp has a face value of £1 it was issued "upon subscription only." American collectors cannot appreciate this stipulation unless they have been in Egypt themselves and sought to buy complete sets of stamps.

According to postal rules, only stamps having a face value of 200 milliemes or less are available at the stamp windows. If you desire one worth 50 piastres (500 milliemes) or £1 you must place a requisition and wait until these stamps are brought from the wholesale stock room. The reason for this is not quite clear: perhaps clerks are not trusted with stamps of such high denominations; perhaps the government does not want to take unnecessary chances of loss or robbery by keeping them on hand at regular windows.

When, therefore, this £1 commemorative was announced people interested in buying them had to place orders for them as they were not available at the regular windows. This fact, however, does not condemn them for legitimate postally used copies do exist and, as a matter of fact, they are still good for postage in Egypt. The stamp is recognized by some foreign catalogues and by all Egyptian specialists.

£1 bright green and orange-brown.

AIR MAIL STAMPS

IN treating the commemorative stamps of Egypt we should also consider the two sets of air mail issues which are also special emissions prepared in honor of particular events, so to complete the record we shall mention both the Graf Zeppelin set and the Aviation Congress sets.

The visit of the German Graf Zeppelin to Egypt in April, 1931, occasioned the issuance of two provisionals in the form of special overprints on the existing 27-milliemes stamps of the country.

There was insufficient time to prepare distinctive designs so a quantity of the regular air mails was sent to the Government Printing Office at Boulaq, where they were surcharged with the words "Graf Zeppelin - April, 1931" in French and Arabic and a new figure of value to conform to the post-

al rates on single weight post cards and letters to be carried aboard the German dirigible.

The type for the surcharge was all handset and consequently a number of consistent minor varieties prevail.

50/27 mills. blue on brown.
50/27 mils. blue on brown, 1951 for 1931.
50/27 mils. blue on brown, Arabic "5" touches the line of Arabic above it.
50/27 mils. blue on brown, N of Zeppelin is large.
100/27 mils. violet on brown.
100/27 mils. violet on brown, Dot of color in front of Arabic "100."

The official accounting follows:

A. Postally used	8,000 sets
B. Canceled to order	1,000 sets
B. Sold in unused state	9,450 sets
	18,450 sets
C. Gifts to officials	2,000 sets
D. Sent to the U. P. U.	1,600 sets
E. Damaged in printing	2,950 sets
	6,550, sets
Total	25,000 sets

TO honor the International Aviation Congress, held in Cairo in December, 1933, a set of five special stamps was ordered by the

Post Office Department and photo-engraved by the Survey Department. Three different designs were used.

The 5 and 10 milliemes stamps depicted the type of commercial passenger airplane used by the Misr Airlines in Egypt.

The 13 and 15 milliemes stamps pictured the German DO-X, one of the largest planes ever built.

The 20 milliemes vignette shows the Graf Zeppelin.

5 mils. brown (202,000)
10 mils. violet (52,000)
13 mils. red (52,000)
15 mils. lilac-brown (52,000)
20 mils. blue (52,000)

MILITARY STAMPS

THE American catalogue does not recognize Egyptian Military stamps which were issued by the British Army Forces between 1932 and 1935, but as these adhesives were actually used by soldiers on active service they must be regarded as legitimate postage stamps and so have a right to be included in at least a special collection.

Only one of them, the provisional issued in commemoration of the Jubilee of King George V, has a place in this discussion.

The basic stamp is similar in design to the regular 1 piastre military seal and depicts the Sphinx in a narrow horizontally oblong format. The words "British Forces in Egypt" and "Letter Stamp" are super-imposed and the figure of value placed in a panel in opposite corners.

"Jubilee Commemoration - 1935" was overprinted in red, diagonally across the face, reading up.

Both the stamp and the overprint were produced by Harrison and Sons of London, and like other Jubilees it was issued on May 6, 1935.

1 pias. red on blue (27,000)
1 pias. red on blue, u of Jubilee is broken.

This study of the commemorative postage stamps of Egypt by Ernest A. Kehr was written especially for The Stamp Review and is herewith reprinted from that magazine. Illustrations are by courtesy of the KenMore Stamp Company.

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